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THE PUNISHER 2099
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THE MOURNING AFTER
MORICAN / PALMIOTTI

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE PUNISHER 2099
ALL MY COLLEAGUES ON THE FORCE HAVE TURNED OUT FOR THE FUNERAL... TO PAY THEIR LAST "RESPECTS" TO MY FAMILY.
WHILE THEY LET THE KILLER OFF WITH A FINE.
NOT MY WAY.
MOM AND BALDUR WERE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF THOR..
I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH ALL THIS VIKING STUFF...
BUT ME AND THE CHURCH AGREE ON ONE THING... WE DON'T BELIEVE IN FORGIVENESS.
AND I BELIEVE IN REVENGE.

PUNISHER 2099™ Vol. 1, No. 2, March, 1993. Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. **Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1993 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.60 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $15.00 U.S.; $27.00 foreign; and Canadian subscribers must add $6.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. PUNISHER 2099 (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO PUNISHER 2099, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. PRINTED IN USA.**

I'M NOT HURTING FROM THEIR DEATHS.
I FEEL NUMB.
BUT NOT AS NUMB AS KRON AND HIS GANG'S GONNA BE...
I'LL LET MY BULLETS DO THE MOURNING.

THE MOURNING AFTER

PAT MILLS & TONY SKINNER
WRITERS

TOM MORGAN
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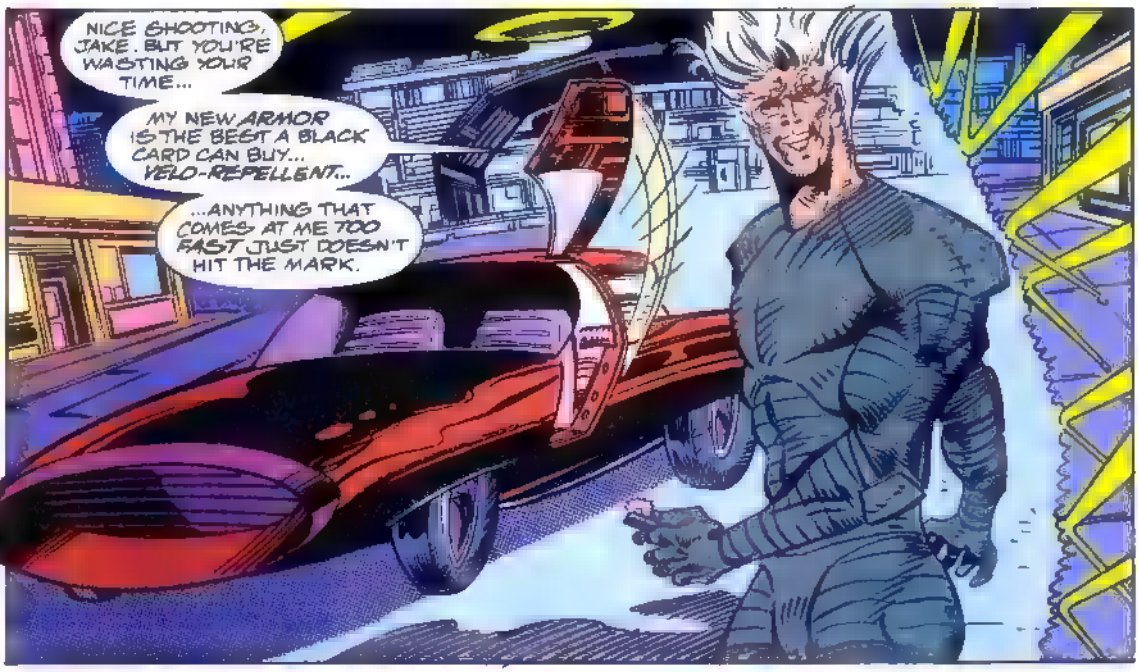
LOOK AT ALL THOSE CHILDREN... HAPPY... FREE...
THEY SHOULD LIVE ALL THEIR LIVES LIKE THAT...
DO IT, KRON!
EMERGENCY GRAV BELTS
NO-GRAV RING
YEAH, GO FOR IT, MAN!
YES... THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE TO GO HOME TO THEIR... PARENTS!
IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE CHILDREN I MUST DO THIS..
I WANT THEM TO HAVE FUN FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES...

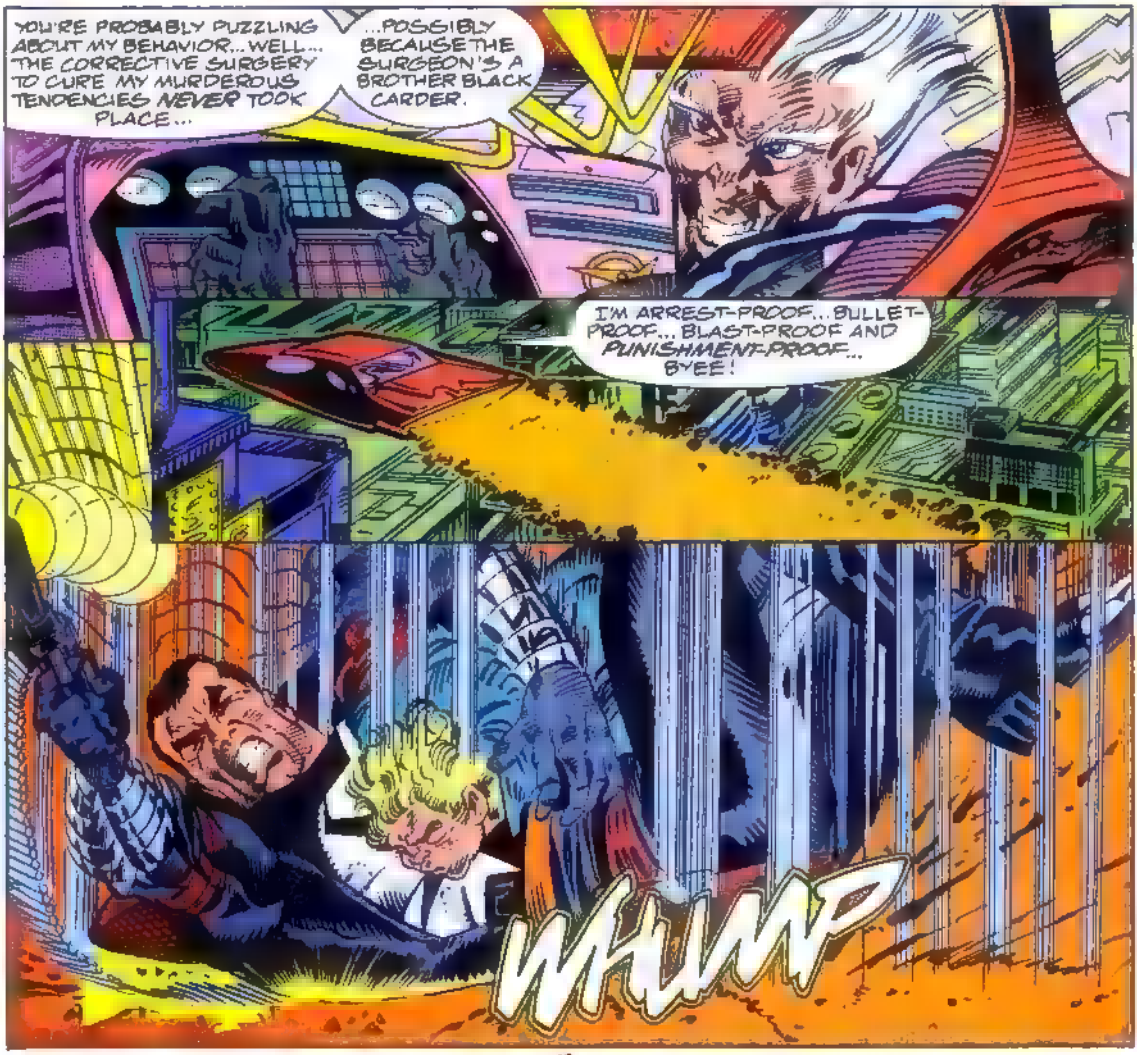
...ALL FIVE SECONDS OF IT!
ON
OFF
NOT THIS TIME...!
...THIS TIME I'M TAKING YOU DOWN!

WHY, "MR. ANGRY" HAS BEEN FOLLOWING US!
WHAT ARE YOU GRUMPY ABOUT NOW?
IT CAN'T BE YOUR FAMILY--I KILLED THEM MONTHS AGO...!
OFF
ON
YOU SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN OVER IT BY NOW!
OFF
DEVIL TAKE YOU, KRON! THEY'RE JUST KIDS!
YAAEEH!
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I'M DOING THEM A FAVOR!
CHILDREN SHOULDN'T BE BROUGHT INTO THIS TERRIBLE WORLD!
THEY'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD!
ON
OFF

MADE IT!
ON
AND NOW YOU DIE!
I DON'T THINK SO...
LOOK BEHIND YOU, "MR. ANGRY"...
BLAST! ONE'S FALLEN OUTSIDE THE GRAV FIELD!
SO SHALL WE FIGHT AND LET THE BRAT DIE...? OR WILL YOU RESCUE HIM INSTEAD...?
YOU COULDN'T SAVE YOUR OWN FAMILY... PERHAPS YOU CAN'T SAVE HIM EITHER!
WELL ..? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
EMERGENCY
GRAV

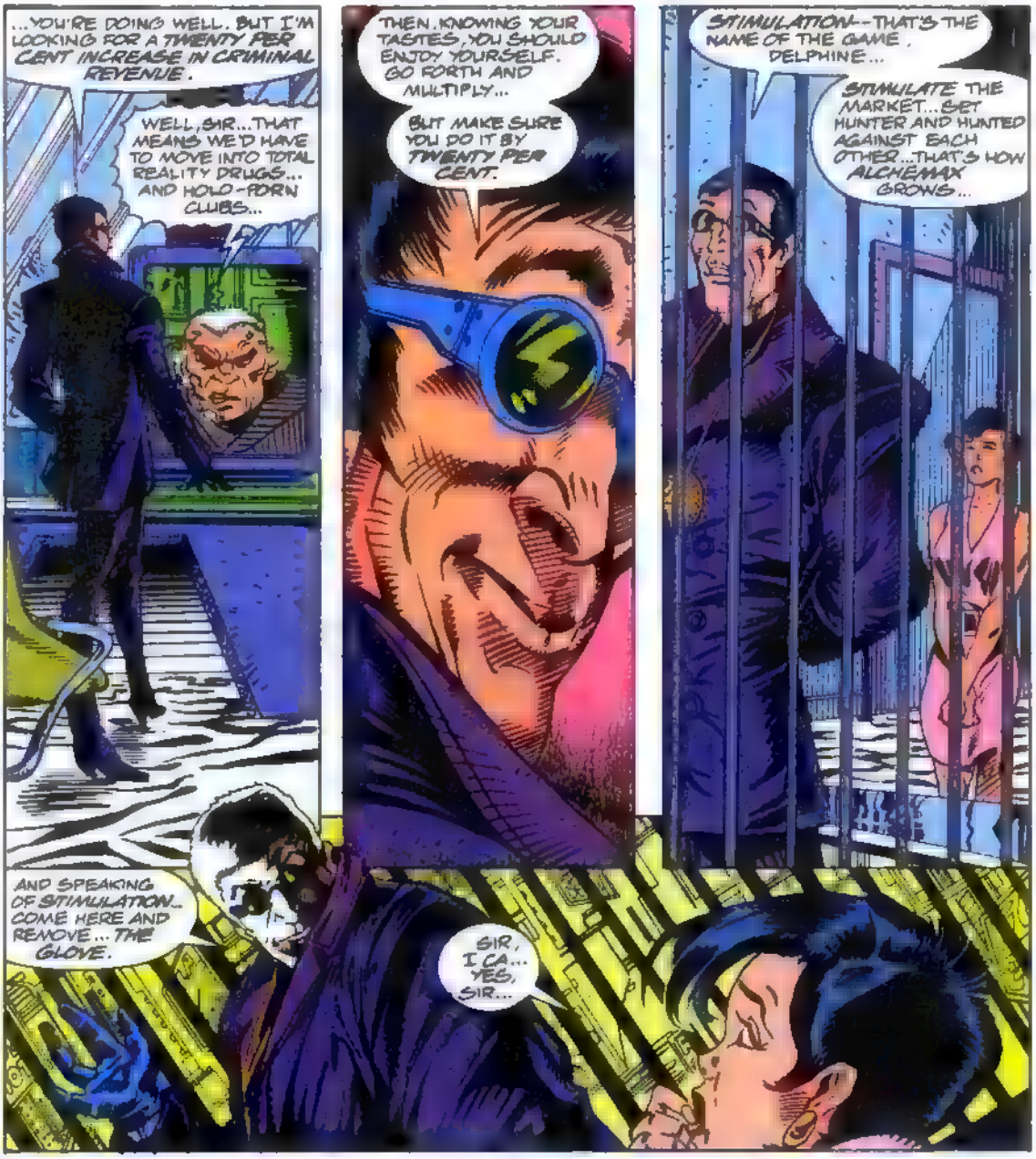
GRAV BELT GIVES ME THE BOOST I NEED TO REACH HIM.
WAHHH
WAHHHH!
THIS IS YOUR LUCKY DAY, KID...
NOW LOOK THE OTHER WAY...
THIS IS GONNA BE MESSY!
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA

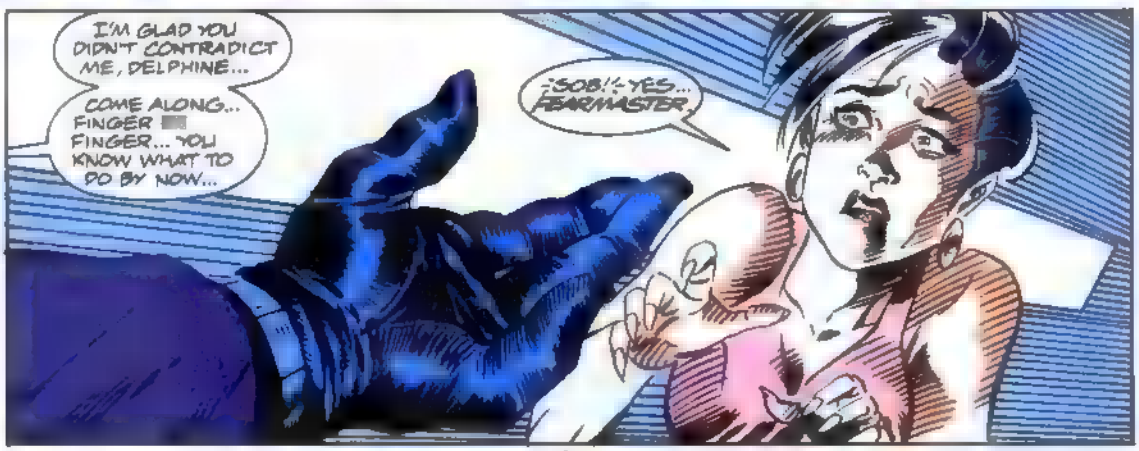

NICE SHOOTING, JAKE. BUT YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME...
MY NEW ARMOR IS THE BEST A BLACK CARD CAN BUY... VELO-REPELLENT...
...ANYTHING THAT COMES AT ME TOO FAST JUST DOESN'T HIT THE MARK.


YOU'RE PROBABLY PUZZLING ABOUT MY BEHAVIOR... WELL... THE CORRECTIVE SURGERY TO CURE MY MURDEROUS TENDENCIES NEVER TOOK PLACE...
...POSSIBLY BECAUSE THE SURGEON'S A BROTHER BLACK CARDER.
I'M ARREST-PROOF... BULLET-PROOF... BLAST-PROOF AND PUNISHMENT-PROOF... BYEE!
WHUMP

THAT WAS DANGEROUS. I'LL REPORT YOU. I WANT A FREE RIDE!
GET HERE!
IT'S OKAY, WE'RE WATCHING
OUT FOR YOU
I'LL TRACK KRON DOWN AGAIN--THE WAY I TRACKED HIM TO THE GRAV PARK...
THROUGH MATT AXEL'S SCANNING SYSTEM...
THE WAY I'LL TRACK DOWN AND WIPE OUT ALL THE CRIMINAL SCUM IN THIS CITY...
NO MATTER HOW HIGH UP THEY ARE...

NO MATTER HOW RICH AND POWERFUL--
POLICE COMMISSIONER BENNELL!, PUBLIC EYE UNLIMITED REPORTING...
SORRY I COULDN'T SPEAK TO YOU EARLIER, FEARMASTER--I'VE BEEN SNOWED UNDER.
YES, YOU HAVE BENNELL!..
...QUITE A LITTLE CRIME WAVE YOU'RE HAVING.
WE AT ALCHEMAX EXPECT AT LEAST A TWENTY PER CENT REDUCTION IN CRIME IN RETURN FOR OUR SPONSORSHIP.
BUT, SIR, IF I CAN JUST EXPLAIN...
GOODBYE, BENNELL!
UNDER-CAPO MULTI FRACTOR, CYBER NOSTRA REPORTING, FEARMASTER...
AH, FRACTOR. GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU.

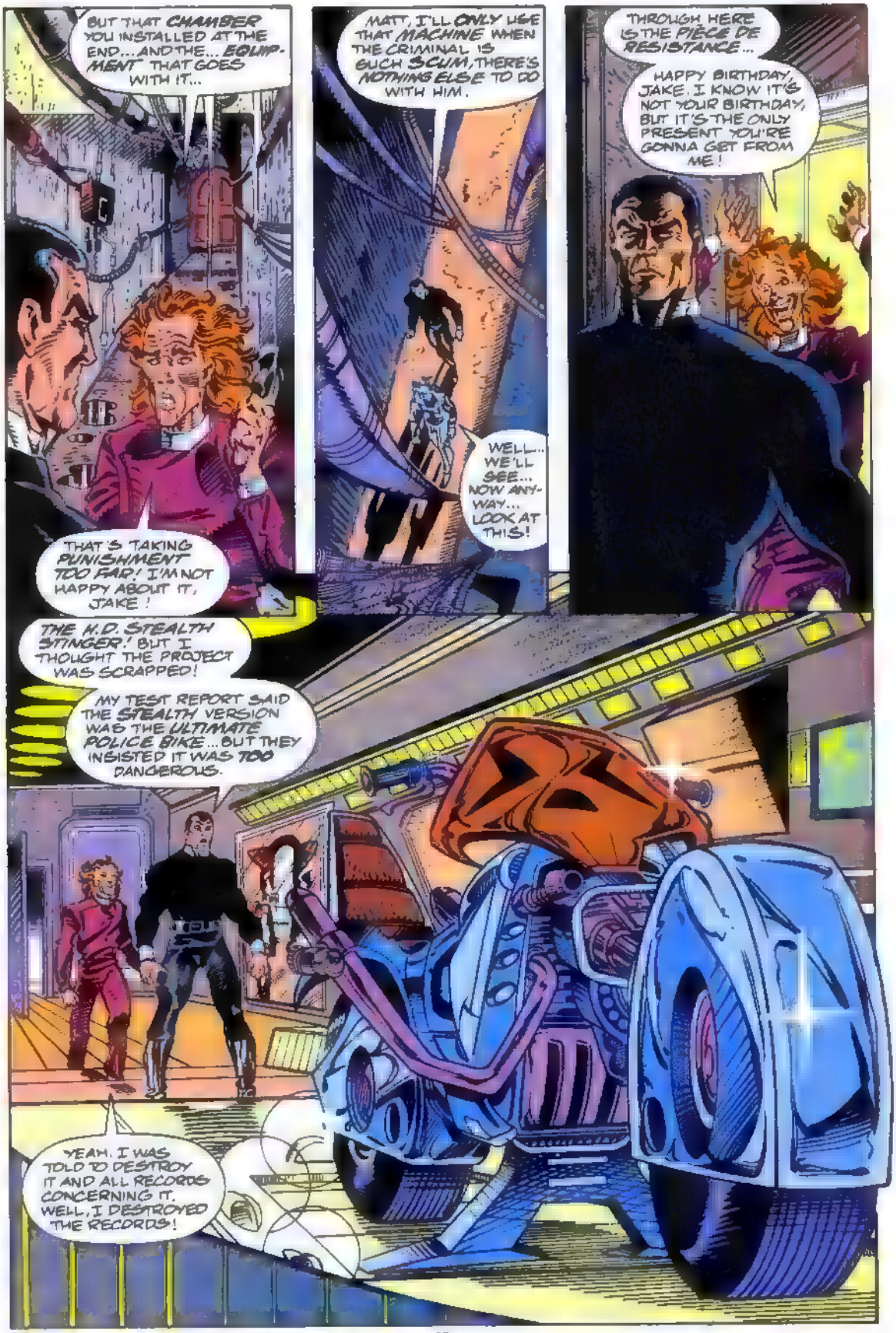

...YOU'RE DOING WELL. BUT I'M LOOKING FOR A TWENTY PER CENT INCREASE IN CRIMINAL REVENUE.
WELL, SIR...THAT MEANS WE'D HAVE TO MOVE INTO TOTAL REALITY DRUGS... AND HOLO-PORN CLUBS...
THEN, KNOWING YOUR TASTES, YOU SHOULD ENJOY YOURSELF. GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY...
BUT MAKE SURE YOU DO IT BY TWENTY PER CENT.
STIMULATION--THAT'S THE NAME OF THE GAME, DELPHINE...
STIMULATE THE MARKET...SET HUNTER AND HUNTED AGAINST EACH OTHER...THAT'S HOW ALCHEMAX GROWS...
AND SPEAKING OF STIMULATION... COME HERE AND REMOVE...THE GLOVE.
SIR, I CA... YES, SIR...


I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T CONTRADICT ME, DELPHINE...
COME ALONG... FINGER [redacted] FINGER... YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO BY NOW...
SOB!-YES... FEARMASTER.

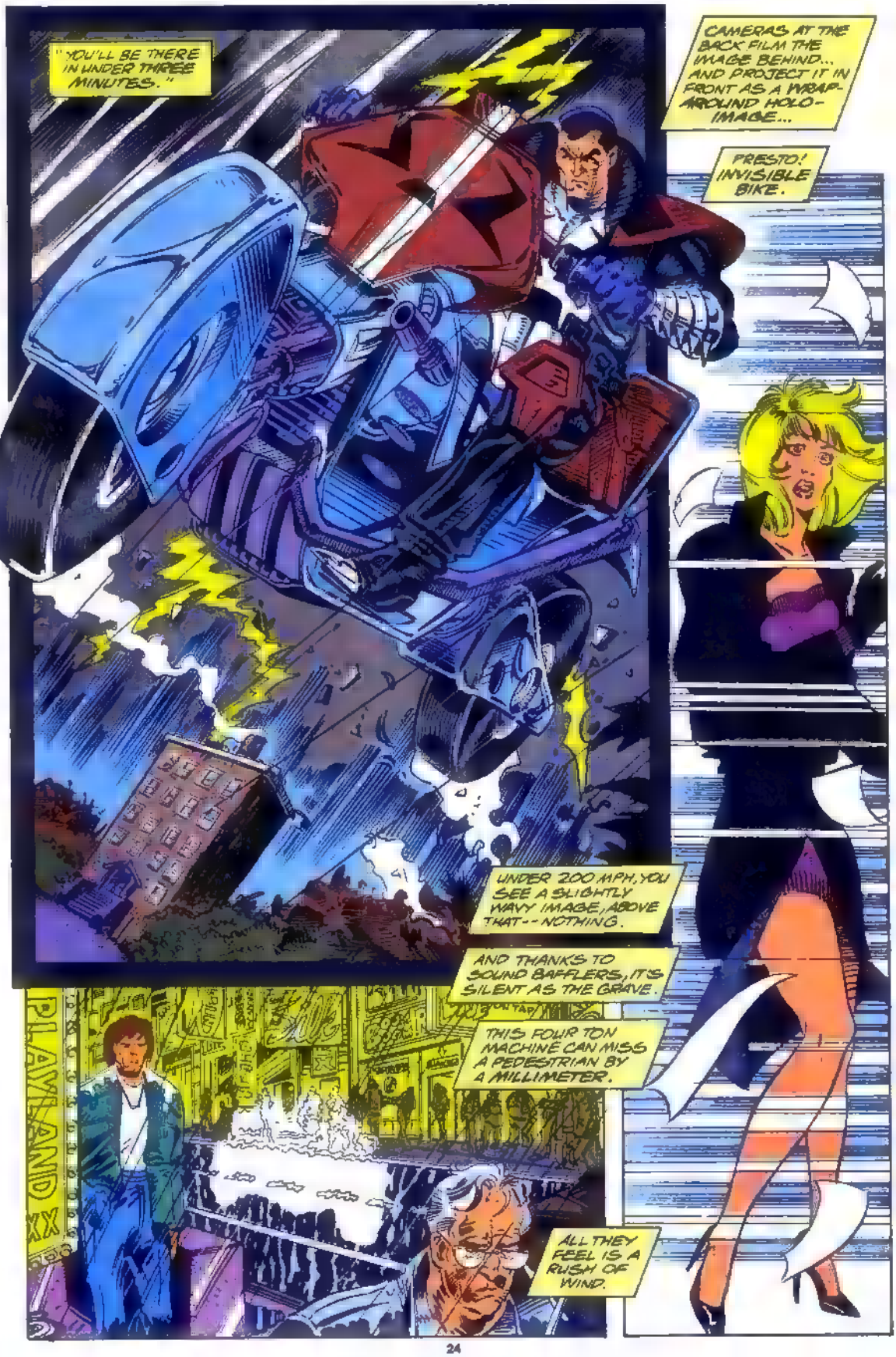
ONE THING HURTS WORSE THAN A LASER .. A BULLET... OR A MICROWAVE...
COMING HOME TO AN EMPTY HOUSE
WHEN YOUR FAMILY HAS GONE. AND YOU'RE ALL ALONE.
AND THERE'S NOTHING AHEAD BUT PAIN...
KNOWING YOU'LL NEVER LAUGH WITH THEM AGAIN... COMFORT THEM WHEN THEY'RE SAD.. ARGUE WITH THEM WHEN YOU'RE FEELING OUT OF SORTS...
EVEN BEING THE PUNISHER ONLY BLOCKS OUT THE MEMORIES FOR A FEW HOURS
BUT MAYBE THE "GUESTS" I'M GOING TO "INVITE" TO MY BASEMENT WILL HELP...
GUESS THEY'LL BE COMPANY FOR ME...

Prepare thy self, so sweats THOR, GOD OF THUNDER.
MA WAS OLD FASHIONED... SHE PREFERRED TO LIVE IN THIS OLD SANDSTONE -- ONE OF THE LAST IN THE BRONX...
HI, SON HAD A GOOD DAY?
HI, MOM
I'LL KEEP THIS PART OF IT AS A SHRINE TO HER MEMORY..
HI, SON. HAD A GOOD DAY?
HI, SON. HAD A GOOD.. :KLIK!:
BUT THE REST OF IT BELONGS TO THE PUNISHER.
HOLO-PHOTO'S STUCK AGAIN...
AH, THERE YOU ARE, JAKE! COME AND LOOK AT THIS! COME AND LOOK AT THIS!
SURE, MATT.
NOW I'VE GOT IT ALL WORKED OUT...! SEE THIS WALL HERE? NOT GOING TO BE A WALL. GOING TO BE A WINDOW! HOLO-WINDOW, SEE?
YOU JU STRAIGHT THROUGH IT INTO GRAV SHAFT UP THE CONTROL ROOM! COME UPSTAIRS! COME UPSTAIRS!

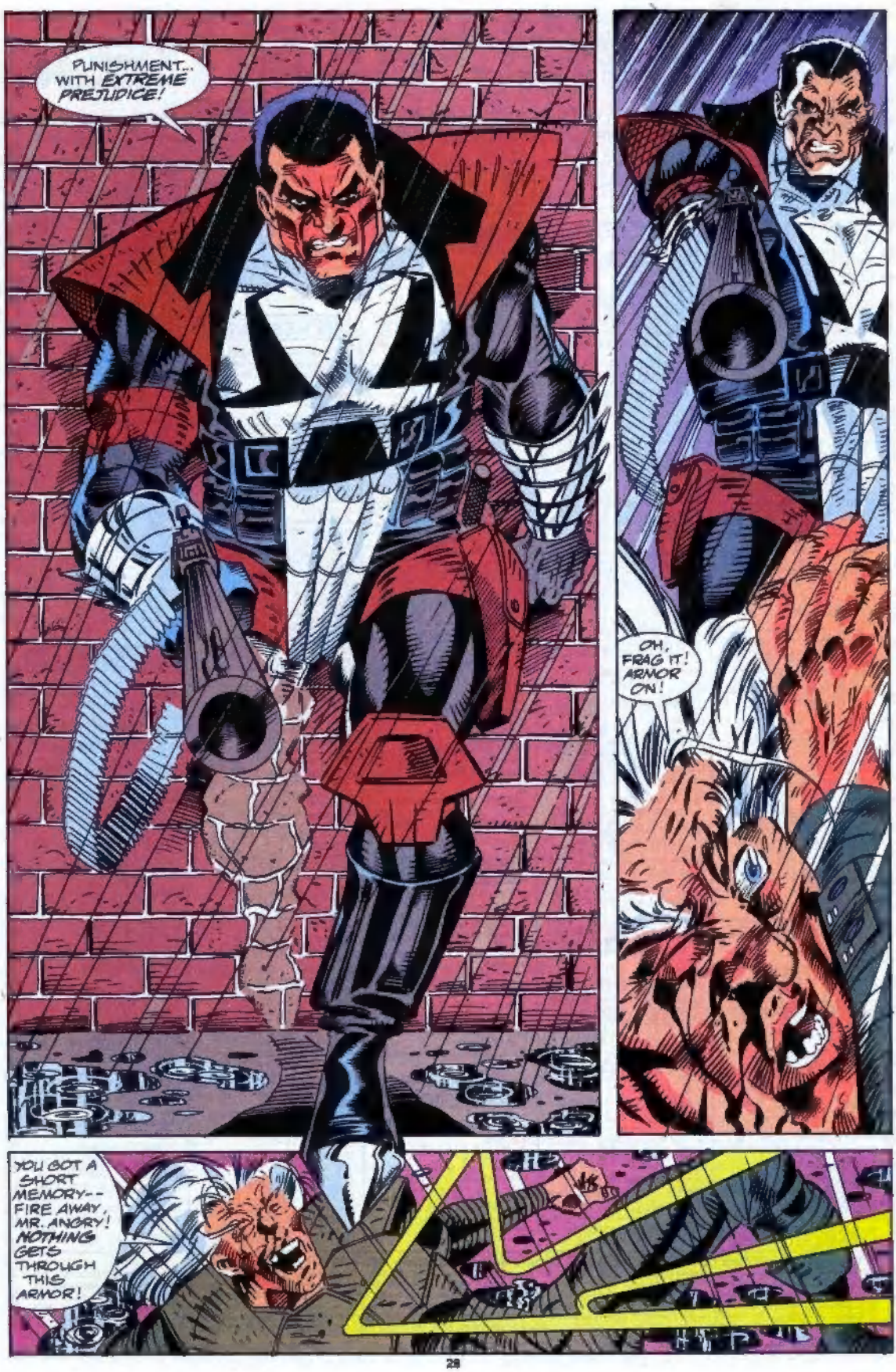
MATT, I'VE ENOUGH MONEY FROM MOM'S WILL TO COVER THE BASEMENT CONVERSION... THE BLACK AMBULANCE... AND BASIC WEAPONRY...
BUT I CAN'T AFFORD WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
SORT THAT OUT LATER! SORT THAT OUT LATER!
NOW THIS IS WHERE THE GRAV CHUTE COMES OUT... NOW APART FROM YOUR BASIC CONSOLE, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A LOT MORE SCREENS! INTERIOR SURVEILLANCE! ACCESS TO POLICE AND CORPORATE FILES! GUIDED MISSILE TRACKING SYSTEM!
GUIDED MISS!--?! HEY--SLOW DOWN A MINUTE!
YOU DON'T WANT IT? WELL, YOU'LL WANT IT LATER! NOW FOLLOW ME TO THE BASEMENT!
NOW THE ROBOTS ARE KNOCKING THROUGH TO ALL THE BASEMENTS UNDER THE BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED DECADES AGO!
THEY SHOULD HAVE THE CELLS FINISHED FOR YOUR "GUESTS" BY THE END OF THE WEEK!
X-04
X-02
MULTI-TEK PLANT HIRE

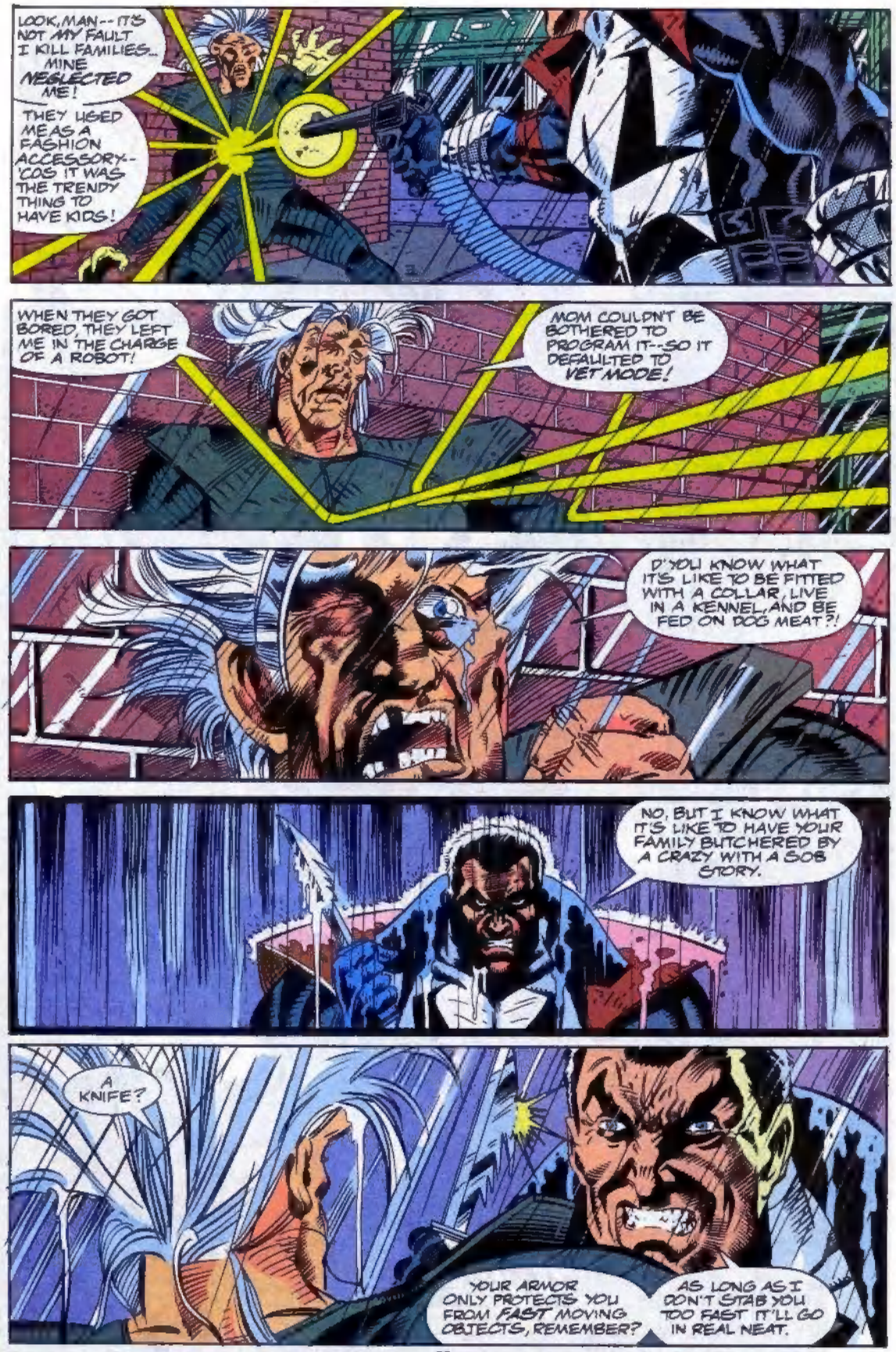

BUT THAT CHAMBER YOU INSTALLED AT THE END... AND THE... EQUIPMENT THAT GOES WITH IT...
MATT, I'LL ONLY USE THAT MACHINE WHEN THE CRIMINAL IS SUCH SCUM, THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO DO WITH HIM.
THROUGH HERE IS THE PIÈCE DE RESISTANCE...
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JAKE. I KNOW IT'S NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY, BUT IT'S THE ONLY PRESENT YOU'RE GONNA GET FROM ME!
WELL... WE'LL SEE... NOW ANYWAY... LOOK AT THIS!
THAT'S TAKING PUNISHMENT TOO FAR! I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT IT, JAKE!
THE M.D. STEALTH STINGER! BUT I THOUGHT THE PROJECT WAS SCRAPPED!
MY TEST REPORT SAID THE STEALTH VERSION WAS THE ULTIMATE POLICE BIKE... BUT THEY INSISTED IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS.
YEAH. I WAS TOLD TO DESTROY IT AND ALL RECORDS CONCERNING IT. WELL, I DESTROYED THE RECORDS!

I'VE INCREASED ITS TOP END TO 500 M.P.H. SO YOU'LL REALLY NEED THAT AIR SCREEN AND COMPUTER PROBABILITY MAPPING SYSTEM.
IT NOW ALSO ACCESSES AND OVERRIDES THE CITY TRAFFIC SYSTEM, SO ALL LIGHTS WILL [redacted] GREEN.
AND IT STILL FIRES EVERY TYPE OF WEAPON AND IS INVISIBLE?
NOT ONLY THAT, IT ALSO... HOLD ON! WE'RE GETTING A CREDIT SIGNAL ON THE SCAN-MAP...
...IT'S KROW!
WHAT? WHERE IS HE?
KING'S PLAZA CARD.
BLACK 5786
PURCHASE
HE'S BOUGHT A SLIM SYNTH BURGER OUT AT KING'S PLAZA, BROOKLYN.
THAT'S TEN MILES AWAY...


"YOU'LL BE THERE IN UNDER THREE MINUTES."
CAMERAS AT THE BACK FILM THE IMAGE BEHIND... AND PROJECT IT IN FRONT AS A WRAP-AROUND HOLO-IMAGE...
PRESTO! INVISIBLE BIKE.
UNDER 200 MPH, YOU SEE A SLIGHTLY WAVY IMAGE, ABOVE THAT -- NOTHING.
AND THANKS TO SOUND BAFFLERS, IT'S SILENT AS THE GRAVE.
THIS FOUR TON MACHINE CAN MISS A PEDESTRIAN BY A MILLIMETER.
ALL THEY FEEL IS A RUSH OF WIND.
PLAYLAND XX

THERE HE IS.
INERTIA BRAKES AND ENERGY DRAINS BRING THE SPEED DOWN FROM 800 MPH TO ZERO IN FIVE SECONDS.
BURG
IT'S A BURGER EXTRAVAGANZA
THE HOLO-CAMERA WILL CONCEAL THE BIKE IN STATIONARY MODE AS PART OF THIS WALL.
HEY, KRON...
WH-WHO'S THERE...? WHAT DO YOU WANT...?
SMAK!


PUNISHMENT... WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE!
OH, FRAG IT! ARMOR ON!
YOU GOT A SHORT MEMORY-- FIRE AWAY, MR. ANGRY! NOTHING GETS THROUGH THIS ARMOR!


LOOK, MAN -- IT'S NOT MY FAULT I KILL FAMILIES.. MINE NEGLECTED ME!
THEY USED ME AS A FASHION ACCESSORY -- 'COS IT WAS THE TRENDY THING TO HAVE KIDS!
WHEN THEY GOT BORED, THEY LEFT ME IN THE CHARGE OF A ROBOT!
MOM COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO PROGRAM IT -- SO IT DEFAULTED TO VET MODE!
D'YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE FITTED WITH A COLLAR, LIVE IN A KENNEL, AND BE FED ON DOG MEAT?!
NO, BUT I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE YOUR FAMILY BUTCHERED BY A CRAZY WITH A SOB STORY.
A KNIFE?
YOUR ARMOR ONLY PROTECTS YOU FROM FAST MOVING OBJECTS, REMEMBER?
AS LONG AS I DON'T STAB YOU TOO FAST IT'LL GO IN REAL NEAT.

AS JAKE GALLOWS I'VE AVENGED MY FAMILY. IT'S OVER.
BUT AS THE PUNISHER I'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN.
THERE ARE MORE SCUM LIKE KROW ESCAPING JUSTICE. BUT THEY WON'T ESCAPE PUNISHMENT.
NEXT ISSUE: LAST EXIT FROM THE BRONX!